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RARE AMERICAN COINS:



THEIR DESCRIPTION,

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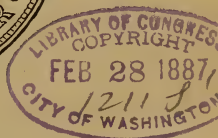
Past and Present Fictitious Values.



A NUMISMATIST'S TWENTY-FIVE YEARS' EXPERIENCE.

BY

E. LOCKE MASON.



BOSTON:

PUBLISHED BY PERCIVAL GASSETT.

1887.

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BOSTON, MASS.

RARE AMERICAN COINS.



1804 UNITED STATES SILVER DOLLAR.

There is no authentic record in the history of the United States Mint, or elsewhere, of the correct number of United States silver dollars issued, bearing the date 1804, and this fact is much regretted by collectors of American coins, as there surrounds this coin much of history and mystery; much that is mythical and cynical; much that requires elaboration and explanation—hence the task of writing the history of this rarest of all United States coins, is beset with difficulties.

The "Statement of Coinage" in the United States Mint at Philadelphia, records the number of silver dollars issued in 1804 as 19,570; but from the well-known fact that the fiscal year of the United States Treasury Department commences July 1st and ends June 30th, and thus embraces part of two years, viz: 1803 and '04, the statement of the coinage for a given year is erroneous and the 19,570 dollars coined, represents all the silver dollar coinage of the last half of 1803.

Starting with the above explanation we are compelled to accept the knowledge of a few examples of the 1804 dollars (there being about six original pieces and eight or ten re-strikes,) as near the number coined. Of the original 1804 dollars, we can trace one to Col. M. A. Stickney of Salem, Mass.; one in L. G. Parmelee's cabinet, Boston, Mass.; one recently in the possession of R. C. Davis, Philadelphia; one in William S. Appleton's cabinet, Boston, Mass.; one in W. B.

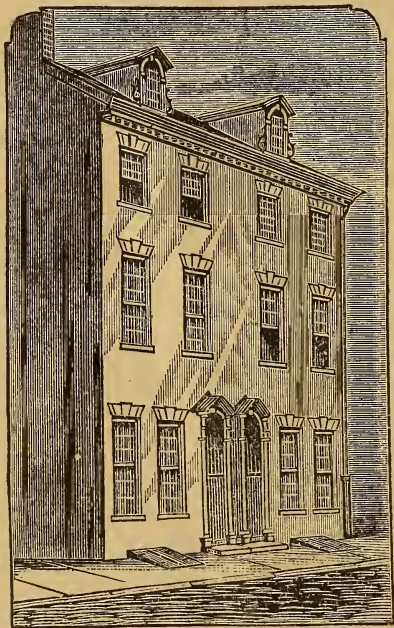
Wetmore's collection, and one in the United States Mint cabinet in Philadelphia. Of the "re-strikes" there is one in Liverpool, England; one in the possession of Mr. Thatcher, Philadelphia; one in the Davis cabinet; one said to be in Morristown, N. J.; one in Berlin, Germany; one in Paris, France; and two in the United States Mint, Philadelphia. In the year 1860, the son of Adam Eckfeldt, formerly chief coiner of the United States Mint, had in his possession three "re-strikes," 1804, United States dollars, which were said to have been claimed by the United States Government and destroyed. There are many counterfeit and altered dates of this dollar. The genuineness of the 1804 dollar is known by the close proximity of the upper left-hand point of the star to the top of the right angle of the letter Y in LIBERTY. In all the altered dates the discrepancy in this respect will be readily noticed. There is also a slight difference between the altered and genuine in the position of the legend, eagle's claw, etc., on the reverses. The electrotype 1804 dollars are readily known by the periphery or edge being unlettered and having no ringing sound, like the resonance of fine silver.

The fictitious value of the 1804 dollar is constantly advancing and the auction sale of Mickley's specimen (an original) fetched in 1867, the sum of \$750, while the sale of one last winter realized \$1000. Dealers in coins offer from \$300 to \$600.



1794 UNITED STATES SILVER DOLLAR.

The next rarest United States dollar (following the 1804), was the issue of 1794. This coin marks the commencement of the dollar series, it being the first silver dollar coined by the United States Government.



THE FIRST U. S. MINT, PHILADELPHIA.

At the period of this coinage, the United States Mint was located on Seventh, directly opposite Filbert Street, Philadelphia. President Washington frequently visited this mint (which was but a short walk from Market

Street, where he resided), to view its operations, and it was here that the old family silver of Washington's household was melted up and made into the well-known beautiful *Dismes* and and *Half-Dismes*, each bearing on obverse a beautiful bust of his wife Martha. These small silver coins, or tokens, were distributed by Washington among his friends, and are much valued at the present day.

The site of this Mint was an old still-house, and another wooden building. The property was purchased by the Government in 1791, and the corner-stone of the Mint was laid July 31, 1792, and the building completed in September of the same year. Three coin presses imported from England were placed in the mint, Oct. 9, and used to strike the Pattern *Dismes* and *Half-Dismes* of 1792, to which we have alluded above. To return to the 1794 dollar, which was the first United States silver dollar coined, we would state that only a few *proof* pieces were struck up to July, 1794; subsequently there was a regular coinage of one thousand seven hundred and fifty-eight 1794 dollars for general circulation. These dollars are now very rare and command high prices at auction coin sales, and among coin dealers.

The first "proof" 1794 dollar coined was presented to the British Mint, London, and now reposes in all its original beauty and lustre in that wonderful institution.

A fine specimen of this dollar would command, at a public coin sale, at least *five hundred dollars*, while worn examples of this coinage would be worth from fifty to one hundred dollars.



THE UNITED STATES FLYING EAGLE PATTERN DOLLARS.

The coinage of United States silver dollars, which commenced in the year 1794, continued to 1804, inclusive, and was suspended from 1805 to 1839, inclusive. Excepting the "Pattern Dollars" of 1836, 1838 and 1839, no other regular issues occurred. From 1840 to the present date the series of silver dollars remains unbroken. There are numismatists who claim that the only dollars issued in 1851, 1852 and 1858 were "proof" pieces, but we have never observed a so-called "uncirculated" United States silver dollar of 1858, although there are a number of uncirculated United States silver dollars of 1851 and 1852; hence the series remains complete from 1840 to the present date.

The 1836, 1838 and 1839 silver dollars bear a very close resemblance in general designs; the stars on the reverse of the 1839 are, however, omitted, but appear on the obverse of the 1838 dollar. For beauty of design the 1836 dollar has been very generally admired, although, there are persons who believe that there never was and never will be United States silver dollars that can compare in tidy looks and general beauty to the "Dollars of our Daddies;" or grand daddies!

The statement of the United States Mint authorities, that there were one thousand 1836 silver dollars coined, is doubtless correct, but as there were unauthorized issues of some of the rare silver dollars made at different periods subsequently to this date there may be a larger number extant.

There have appeared at various coin sales "altered dates" of these dollars, so cleverly executed as to puzzle numismatists of little experience.

The 1836 dollar in brilliant proof condition is worth twelve to fourteen dollars; while in the following conditions bear the annexed prices:

1836 dollar, very fine,	\$10.00
" " fine,	8.00
" " good,	6.00
" " fair,	4.50

The 1838 dollar in brilliant proof condition is worth fifty-five dollars with the following prices for lower conditions, viz:—

1838 dollar, very fine,	\$45.00
" " fine,	35.00
" " good,	30.00
" " fair,	25.00

This dollar is much rarer than either the 1836 or 1839.

The 1839 dollar in brilliant proof condition is worth thirty-five dollars; in other conditions as follows:

1839 dollar, very fine,	\$30.00
" " fine,	25.00
" " good,	20.00
" " fair,	15.00

The silver dollars of 1851, 1852 and 1858, of the latest issues, command the next highest prices, viz:

1851 dollar, brilliant proof,	\$50.00
" " very fine,	45.00
" " fine,	35.00
" " good,	30.00
" " fair,	20.00
1852 " brilliant proof,	55.00
" " very fine,	48.00
" " fine,	40.00
" " good,	1.00
" " fair,	20.00
1858 " brilliant proof,	35.00
" " very fine,	25.00
" " fine,	20.00
" " good,	15.00
" " fair,	10.00



1799 AND 1804 UNITED STATES COPPER CENTS.

There are several of the series of United States copper cents that may be termed *rarer* and more valuable, fictitiously, than those dated 1799 and 1804 and among these, we specify the American cent of 1793, the 1794 starred cent and the "Jefferson Head" cent of 1795; but there are none of any date that possess the interest of the two above illustrated coins. The United States Mint authorities quote the following quantity of each of these rare cents as coined in the years named, viz :

1799, whole number coined, \$9,045.85

1804, " " " 7,568.38

Now we find a sad discrepancy between the *figures* and the *facts*. The *value* and *rarity* of these much sought after and fondly cherished copper coins could not be as great as at present if the United States coinage for 1799 really embraced nearly a million, as the value above would indicate, copper cents; nor would the 1804 cent be treasured and valued as it is by thousands of numismatists, if there were over seven hundred thousand of these desirable coppers coined.

As we have said, in previous numbers of these articles, there is no correct account of the coinages of the years 1799 and 1804, either in the United States Mint at Philadelphia, the Treasury Department at Washington, or elsewhere. The fact is that the total value of cents, as given by the United States Mint reports for the years named embrace four years that is—

1st the fiscal year, July 1, 1798, to June 30, 1799
2d " " " " 1803, " " 1804

Thus we see that *four* years are included in the statement of coinages of the United States Mint, and the *very common* 1798 and 1803 cents are included in the issues for 1799 and 1804.

If we were asked to guess, after an experience as a coin dealer of upward of twenty-five years, what number of these two rare American coins were issued, we should say about 2,500 of 1799, and 1800 of the date 1804.

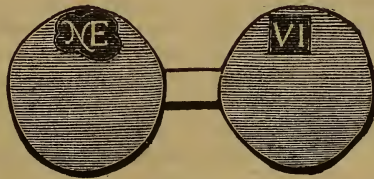
We confidentially believe that the 1804 cent is the rarest of the two dates, although the cent of 1799 will always fetch the highest fictitious price, either by auction or at private sale. Our own experience is that there are more copper cents dated 1799 than 1804. Upon one occasion (1867) the late Prof. M. W. Dickerson of Philadelphia, offered us *seventy* United States copper cents dated 1799; all poor, as is the case of most of this date, but all genuine, and we made a bid of *one dollar each* (worth now in same condition \$5 each). During all the years of our numismatic career, and while manipulating public coin sales by auction in New York and Philadelphia, we have found three 1799 cents to two of 1804.

In reference to the present fictitious value of these two numismatic rareties, we would say, that an *uncirculated*, or more properly speaking, an unworn copper cent of 1799, of good color and *sharp* would fetch at public auction almost as much as an 1804 United States silver dollar; or to come down to plain figures *five to eight* hundred dollars. A 1799 cent in the latter condition, is unknown, either at home or abroad, in the cabinet of any private collector of State, or institution. The same can be said of the 1804 cent, with two or perhaps three exceptions, although the fictitious value of the latter would not reach half the price of the former—conditions and sharpness of pieces being equal. J. J. Mickley, the late numismatic expert (whose cabinet of American coins before his great loss by robbery was not excelled in value, or condi-

tion, in the United States) spent nearly a lifetime in the search for a good 1799 copper cent. Mr. Mickley's object at first was to secure a cent of the date of his birth, as a pocket piece, and he often told us that he secured every other date of the cent series before he obtained the long-sought-for date, 1799, and this simple ob-

ject in Mr. Mickley's life led up to the formation of one of the grandest cabinets of American coins known at the time of his great loss by burglars in the year 1867, and gave to American Numismatic History, one of the best of contributors, whose decease numismatists of two hemispheres constantly deplore.

NEW ENGLAND SILVER COINAGES.



THE NEW ENGLAND SIXPENCE.

The earliest known coinage for New England dates back to 1652. The Massachusetts General Court passed an act on the 27th of May in the above year, which established a mint in Boston; this being the first mint ever put in operation in the United States. John Hull of Boston, was appointed mint master, and the act aforesaid required three silver pieces to be coined, viz:—Twelvepence, sixpence and threepence; the obverse sides to bear the script capitals, N. E., while upon the reverses of the pieces should appear the Roman numerals, XII., VI., III. The illustration of the "sixpence" above exhibits the appearance of each coin, the only difference being the denomination. In order to supply the bullion necessary to this coinage, the mint was ordered to receive "Bullion plate, or Spanish Coin," for assay and refining, and the depositor of the same was allowed to witness the process of refining, assaying and alloying, and to receive a receipt for the "good silver alloyed, as aforesaid." John Hull received one shilling in every twenty coined, for expense of coinage, which amount was subsequently increased a sixpence.

The "Minting House" was erected on Hull's property, the latter residing at the time, south of the entrance to Pembroke Square, Boston.

The authorities on the 11th of June, 1652, ordered a silver two-penny piece, and all the coins were to be of a "round forme," and the extraordinary directions were also given to make the coins "flatt and square." The coins as they appear now present a flat, ridged, or reeded, face; the designs, or denominations, appearing in a sort of frame. There are many counterfeits of the New England pieces, chiefly of English origin; but they rarely deceive the expert collector.

Original coins of the "N. E." pattern are very rare and command prices about as follows:—

N. E. shilling	1652, very fine,	\$50.
" " "	" good,	28.
" " sixpence	" very fine,	60.
" " "	" good,	35.

Notwithstanding the order issued for coining other denominations, there are known but two varieties, the shilling and sixpence. Becker's counterfeits embrace shilling, sixpence, threepence, twopence, and penny.



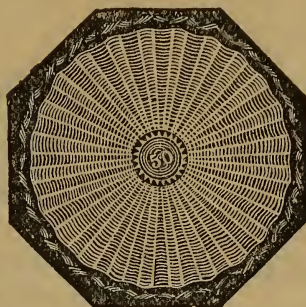
MASSACHUSETTS "PINE TREE" MONEY.

In 1652, soon after the issue of the New England pieces, there were coined various kinds of the so-called "Pine Tree" money; although the coins presented three different trees on their obverses, viz:—The pine tree, oak tree and the willow tree; the latter two being the rarest varieties. The "Pine Tree" issues consist of the shilling, sixpence and threepence. The law authorizing this series of silver coins designated a tree as the device, but it was silent on the kind of tree; hence the mint master exercised his own pleasure as to the tree, and we have the different varieties as aforesaid. The following anecdote, which is vouched for by various authorities on Colonial history, is worth a place here and we give it. "John Hull and Robert Saunderson were equal officers in the gainful business of the mint. How much they coined in all for the Colony, or the exact amount of their profits under the contract they carried out, cannot be determined. The coinage was certainly large in amount, and they, as was well understood, became men of wealth and substance. When the daughter of John Hull was married to Judge Samuel Sewall, the founder of the town of Newbury, Mass., the prosperous mint master gave the bride a dowry of her weight in silver. At the conclusion of the wedding ceremony, a large steel-yard was brought into the room, and the blushing bride placed

upon one of the platforms of the same, while into a tub upon the other side, were poured the Pine Tree shillings, until the steel-yard balanced." This John Hull died Oct. 1, 1683, and the operations of the mint were discontinued. There are twenty-five types of the shilling and as many minor varieties; of the sixpence but three varieties are known; of the threepence there are two varieties. These coins were struck for nearly thirty years (1652 to 1682) but all bore the date 1652. There is a collection of coins in Boston, a "Good Samaritan Shilling," supposed to have been a "Pattern Piece," that bears a resemblance in size and general appearance to the "Pine Tree" money; but the obverse of the piece had the parable of the good Samaritan illustrated, while the reverse was not unlike a "Pine Tree" shilling.

"Pine Tree" shillings vary in value according to rarity and condition, and are worth as follows:

P. T. shilling, 1652 uncirculated	\$15.
" " " fine	6.
" " " good	3.50
" sixpence " uncirculated	20.
" " " fine	8.
" " " good	4.
" threepence " uncirculated	25.
" " " fine	10.
" " " good	4.



THE CALIFORNIA GOLD "SLUGS," ETC.

The gold "Slugs," or \$50 pieces, as above illustrated, were confined to the State of California, and made their appearance early in the year 1851, congress having established a United States Assay Office, in San Francisco, for their coinage, in 1850. There are two types of the \$50 pieces, one round in form, and the other octagon. In 1854 Congress passed an "Act Establishing a Branch Mint," in San Francisco. Previous to this there had been a number of private companies issuing gold coins; among these were the Oregon Exchange Co., 1849, coining only a \$5 piece; a Dr. J. S. Ormsby, of Pennsylvania, struck off a \$10 gold piece, 1849, approved by Templeton Reid, assayer; the "Cincinnati Mining and Trading Company," 1849, issued a \$5 gold piece, and, in 1850, a \$10 gold coin. The Miner's Bank of San Francisco issued a \$10 piece. The "N. G. & N. Co.," 1849, issued a \$5 piece; and, in the same year, the "Massachusetts and California Company," issued a similar coin. Dunbar & Co., and Baldwin & Co., also circulated \$5 and \$10 coins, and the "S. M. V.," in 1851, coined a half eagle bearing their initials. Dubosque & Co. was another firm that issued coins, confining their efforts to \$10 pieces dated 1851.*

Of all these various California coins none have the interest and fictitious value that surrounds the heaviest of all known gold coins, the "California Gold Slugs," or \$50 pieces.

It has been frequently stated that the \$50 pieces were not an authorized U. S. coin; and there are financial writers and numismatists who believe that the "slugs" issued were a private

enterprise, and coined simply to put the gold dust and nuggets in convenient shape for handling and trading purposes. The following extract of a letter from the directors of the mint, sent in reply to an inquiry as to whether or not the "slugs" were merchandise or coins, settles the controversy beyond dispute:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Office of the Director of the Mint,
Washington, D. C., May 1.

Sir,—I have received your letter of the 30th ult., requesting to be informed if the \$50 California Slug is an authorized United States coin.

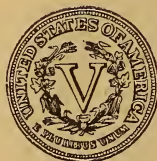
"The 'California Slug' is not an authorized United States coin, but simply a slug, or bar, with the United States stamp, indicating the degree of fineness and value affixed by the United States Assayer, appointed by authority of law, to perform such duties in assaying and fixing the value of gold in grain and lump, and in forming the same into bars, as shall be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury."

The prices of California slugs vary according to fineness, and the round slug commands the highest premium, as follows:

Round California Gold slug, uncir'd	. \$105.00
" " " " fine	. 85.00
" " " " good	. 70.00
Octagon " " " uncir'd	. 85.00
" " " " fine	. 75.00
" " " " good	. 65.00

There are several varieties, chiefly dated 1851 and 1852, the former the rarest date.

* The Humbert \$10 piece, of 1852, was a pretty coin, and circulated largely in California. Moffat & Co. issued \$5 and \$10 pieces and gold ingots—1849 to 1852.



UNITED STATES NICKEL "NO CENTS" COINAGE, AND THE NICKEL COINAGE GENERALLY.

In the year 1837, a German mechanic residing in New York City named Feuchtwanger, invented, coined and circulated nickel three-cent and one-cent coins; and in addition to setting up a mint of his own, contrary to the laws of the United States regulating the coinage, petitioned congress for the payment of his discovery of a new metal, requesting the modest sum of one hundred thousand dollars! Instead of receiving a reward the nickel inventor came near serving a sentence in the penitentiary. These New York nickel "Feuchtwangers" were very pretty pieces; one three-cent piece bore on the obverse an eagle on a rock; another type had for an obverse the New York State arms; the one-cent piece bore on obverse an eagle. These coins, or tokens, are now quite rare. The Eagle and Rock three-cent piece is valued at about five dollars. Another "Eagle" type of the same denomination valued at three dollars. The N. Y. coat of arms three-cent piece is valued at three dollars and fifty cents. The most common of the 1837 nickels is the cent having on obverse a flying eagle, and on reverse the words "one cent;" its fictitious value would scarcely reach twenty-five cents, even in fine condition. All of the above-described pieces bear Feuchtwanger's name. In 1855 congress passed an act authorizing the coinage of nickel cents, bearing on obverse a flying eagle, with legend around the same, "United States of America," beneath to be the date, 1856; on the reverse side in centre the denomination, "One Cent," surrounded by a tobacco wreath. This coin was to weigh 72 grains, and to be composed of an alloy eighty-eight parts copper and twelve parts nickel. In the spring of 1856 these nickel cents to the number of about fifteen thousand were coined and put into circulation,

and immediately sold among coin collectors at a premium, which has increased annually at about the following ratio:

1856,	1856 nickel cents fictitious value,	10c.
1857,	" " " " "	25c.
1858,	" " " " "	50c.
1859,	" " " " "	75c.
1860,	" " " " "	1.00
1861,	" " " " "	1.25
1862,	" " " " "	1.50

1863 to 1873, from \$2 to \$3 each.

1874 to 1886, from \$3.25 to \$5 each.

These nickel cents were a great improvement on the old cumbersome coppers, and were continued with various changes in designs until 1864 inclusive, when they were succeeded by the present bronze cent, and in 1857 the old copper cents were withdrawn from circulation. The next nickel coinage was ordered by congress in 1865 to consist of a three-cent piece to weigh thirty grains, and composed of an alloy of seventy-five per cent. copper and twenty-five per cent. nickel, and this was followed in 1866 by the coinage of a five-cent nickel piece. Very little change occurred in the designs on the five-cent pieces of shield for obverse and rays and stars with figure "5" for reverse, except the removal of the "rays" in 1867 from the reverse side, and they continued thus until the "V" coinage was adopted in 1883.

The three-cent nickel pieces bore the bust of the Goddess of Liberty on obverse, surrounded by the legend, "United States of America" with date 1865. Reverse, the Roman numerals "III," surrounded by an olive branch. These pieces were continued without alteration until the present year. Although the three-cent nickel pieces

had no word "cents" represented on either side, yet the good public failed to take offence, as in the case of the five-cent nickel pieces of 1883, without the word "cents," and to this date the three-cent nickel pieces pass without question as to designated value.

The five-cent nickel pieces, as illustrated at the head of this article, appeared in the summer of 1883, and were coined without the word "cents" to the number of two million pieces; but this great quantity failed to appear in circulation, as the mint authorities on account of complaints of the lack of the word "cents" and the

appearance of the coins gold plated (hence liable to deceive as to value) retained in the vaults of the mint the greater portion of the issue, and this incident led to a change in the reverse, and the word "cents" was added, and all five-cent nickel pieces have appeared since 1883 with the denomination and value.

The 1883 "V" nickels, without the word "cents," are worth in proof condition, 15 cents; in uncirculated condition, 10 cents; and when worn or circulated, 7 cents. Dealers pay 6 to 10 cents each for these pieces.



UNITED STATES HALF EAGLES, 1795 TO 1834 INCLUSIVE.

In June, 1795, at the old Philadelphia mint (still standing opposite Filbert Street, fronting on 7th Street), the first United States gold coins were struck off ("eagles"). Following this issue, which was extremely limited (July 31), there were coined about one thousand half-eagles of the value of five dollars each; although the *value* was not upon any part of the coin, they were accepted, and known as "half-eagles."

It is a curious fact that the officials of the U. S. Treasury Department failed to place any denomination on the gold coinage for the years 1795 to 1799, inclusive; thus history repeats itself, in this respect, as the United States Treasury Department has failed to place the value on the three-cent nickel pieces of any date, and notably on the five-cent nickel pieces of 1883.

The half-eagles of 1795 were much sought after by foreign numismatists, on account of their rarity and beauty, and it would not be far out of the way of the fact, to state that there are more half-eagles of 1795 in Europe to-day than in the United States.

The half-eagles, in accordance with the change of designs on all the gold, silver and copper coinages, were much changed in appearance in 1798, the small eagle and wreath on the reverse side giving place to the large spread eagle, while the obverse retained the liberty-capped bust, while the number of stars was increased from 13 to 15 and 16. From 1800 to 1834, inclusive, the change on the obverses was slight and confined to the bust, while the reverses bore a different shaped eagle, and above this, the motto, in a curved label, "E. Pluribus Unum."

The 1795, 1796, 1797, 1798, 1799 half-eagles are all quite scarce, and range in fictitious value, as follows:

1795, uncir'd,	\$12.00,	fine,	\$10.00,	good,	\$8.00
1796,	30.00,	"	20.00,	"	12.00
1797,	"	20.00,	"	15.00,	" 10.00
1798,	"	10.00,	"	8.00,	" 6.00
1799,	"	8.00,	"	7.00,	" 5.50

From 1800 to 1814, there was a large issue of half-eagles, and for the first time the *value* was

expressed on the gold coinages by the following, "5 D." All of these issues are common to dealers in coins and coin collectors, and although the intrinsic value in gold of each year is five dollars and thirty cents, up to the change in alloy, 1834, they seldom fetch more than six or

seven dollars, and very fine pieces, from 1800 to 1814, can be had at this price.

The rarest and most valuable of the half-eagles is dated 1815, there being only half a dozen examples known, and a fine specimen will always command a hundred dollars.



UNITED STATES HALF EAGLES OF THE ORLEANS AND OTHER MINTS.

The change in the designs on the half-eagles took place in 1834, when the motto, "E. Pluribus Unum," was omitted, and the gold alloyed, reducing the gold value of all half-eagles, 1834, to the present date (1886) six per cent. In 1886 another change occurred from the "no motto" reverses of 1834 to 1865, inclusive, to the motto in label, "IN GOD WE TRUST," which has been attributed to the late President Lincoln. In 1838 the new branch mint at New Orleans commenced the coinage of gold and silver pieces, and upon all coins issued was placed the letter O., signifying "Orleans," or "New Orleans." There are no rare pieces among the half-eagles of any of the branch mints.

There are a number of very rare half-eagles dated 1820 to 1833. Among them the rarest are 1822 and 1824; the prices ranging as follows:—

1820, uncirculated (no proofs known),	\$16.	1824, good,	\$20.
1820, fine,	\$13.	1825, uncirculated,	25.
1820, good,	10.	1825, fine,	16.
1821, uncirculated,	20.	1825, good,	12.
1821, fine,	16.	1826, uncirculated,	20.
1821, good,	12.	1826, fine,	15.
1822, uncirculated,	60.	1826, good,	10.
1822, fine,	50.	1827, uncirculated,	23.
1822, good,	35.	1827, fine,	18.
1823, uncirculated,	20.	1827, good,	12.
1823, fine,	15.	1828, uncirculated,	20.
1823, good,	10.	1828, fine,	15.
1824, uncirculated,	40.	1828, good,	10.
1824, fine,	30.		

1829, uncirculated, \$30. 1829, good, \$20.
1829, fine, 25.

1830, 1831, 1832 and 1833 worth from \$6 to \$10 each.

There are several mint marks on various dates of the half-eagles: "O" for New Orleans, La.; "D" for Dahlonega, Georgia; "S" for San Francisco, California. The absence of the mint mark or letter from any United States coin signifies that it was coined at the "Master Mint," Philadelphia.

The three-dollar pieces and the quarter-eagles embrace many rare and valuable dates. The 1875 three-dollar gold-piece is the rarest, followed by 1863, 1865, 1876 and 1877. The 1875 is worth twenty-five dollars, proof condition; \$20, in uncirculated condition; \$15, fine; \$10, good. 1876 worth \$5 in fine condition; 1877, fine, \$4; 1863, 1865 and 1868, fine, from \$4 to \$6.

The "Quarter-eagles," or two and a half dollar pieces, from 1796, the first year of coinage, to 1834, with motto, are all worth more than par, and command about the prices annexed.—1796, with stars, uncirculated, \$60; 1796, fine, \$45; 1796, good, \$25; 1796, no stars, range from \$5 to \$15; 1797 and 1798, very fine, from \$6 to \$20; 1802, 1804, 1805, 1806, 1807, 1808, very fine, \$4 to \$7 each; 1821, very fine, \$10 each; 1824, very fine, \$10 each; 1825, 1826 and 1827, very fine, each \$8; 1829 to 1834, with motto included, \$3 to \$6 each, uncirculated.



UNITED STATES GOLD DOLLARS.

In 1849 the first gold dollar was issued, and continued annually until 1886, although the number during the past few years has been extremely limited. There were two varieties of the gold dollars—viz., the large thin and the small thick planchets. The latter bear date 1849 to 1854, inclusive, and the former 1854 to 1886, inclusive. The rarest of the gold dollars is the 1875 issue; the next in rarity 1876 and 1877; after which we have the 1864, 1865, 1866 and

1868. Values as follows, in very fine condition, 1849 to 1854, inclusive, \$1.05 to \$1.25 each; 1855 to 1863, inclusive, \$1.10 to \$1.30 each; 1864, uncirculated, \$1.25; 1865, uncirculated, \$1.30; 1866 and 1868, uncirculated, each \$1.20; 1875, uncirculated, \$3; 1876 and 1877 each \$1.30, uncirculated; 1884, 1885, 1886, each proofs, \$1.25 each. All others \$1.05 to \$1.10 each, fine to uncirculated.



UNITED STATES HALF DOLLARS.

The 1838 half dollar represented above, having the mint designation "O," meaning that the coin was struck at the mint in New Orleans, is one of the rarest of the series of half dollars.

The rarest United States silver half dollar is the 1853, without arrows at the date sides; there being but one known. The example was originally owned by B. T. Walton, Messenger of a bank in Pennsylvania, who picked it up in the summer of 1881 in his "collections," and sold it to J. Calvin Randall of the same State for twenty-eight dollars. This piece was purchased with Randall's silver collection in 1884, by W. E. Woodward of Boston, and subsequently sold by public auction in New York City for up-

wards of a hundred dollars, and stands to-day as the only one of its class properly authenticated. There are 1853 quarter dollars without arrows at the date sides, but these do not rise in fictitious value, when in uncirculated condition, beyond ten dollars, while a fair specimen can be had for three dollars and fifty cents. The next half dollar in rarity and value is the 1838, with the letter "O" between the date and bust; which letter always indicates the New Orleans coinage.

There are probably not more than half a dozen examples of the latter coin known, and the writer, who has had a quarter of a century's experience as a coin dealer, has seen but three of these rarities; one in the Mint Cabinet at

Philadelphia, one in Randall's Cabinet, and one in Rodney and Mercur's Cabinet in Towanda, Pa. The value of the 1838 half dollar is variously estimated; but from ten to twenty five dollars, would not be an unfair valuation, in a dealer's point of view.

The 1838 and 1853 half dollars, as above described, derive their rarity and value from the fact that the "Master Mint" in Philadelphia had ordered a cessation of the coinage of half dollars of 1838 and 1853 which had been struck from dies having the "O" and without arrows respectively: hence all subsequent issues of those years were coined without the "O" and with arrows.

The half dollars next in rarity and value are dated 1796 and 1797. Of the 1796 there are two distinct varieties of the obverse sides; one bearing thirteen stars, and the other fifteen stars. The 1796, with thirteen stars, is valued at from twenty to seventy-five dollars, according to condition, while the fifteen-star variety will command from twenty-five to eighty dollars. The 1797 half dollar is not quite as rare as the 1796, yet it will command very nearly the same value as the latter. The 1794, 1801, 1802, 1815, 1836 "reeded" edges, and 1852 are classed as the rarest of the remaining half dollars, and the fictitious values of each are about as follows:—

1794 half dollar,	uncirculated,	\$75.00
" " "	very fine,	35.00
" " "	fine,	10.00
" " "	good,	5.00
1801 " "	uncirculated,	40.00

1801 half dollar,	very fine,	\$20.00
" " "	fine,	10.00
" " "	good,	4.00
1802 " "	uncirculated,	45.00
" " "	very fine,	25.00
" " "	fine,	12.00
" " "	good,	5.00
1815 " "	uncirculated,	20.00
" " "	very fine,	10.00
" " "	fine,	5.00
" " "	good,	3.75
1836 " "	(reeded) unc'rcult'd	10.00
" " "	very fine,	5.00
" " "	fine,	4.00
" " "	good,	3.00
1852 " "	uncirculated,	10.00
" " "	very fine,	6.00
" " "	fine,	4.50
" " "	good,	3.50

There has long been a belief, among numismatists, that an 1804 half dollar was coined at the U. S. Mint, and this belief is strengthened by the fact that "over dates" were of frequent occurrence in the early history of the mint, and an over date is well known and quite scarce, viz: "1805 struck over an 1804." The latter proves beyond question that a die of 1804 was made with a view of coining 1804 half dollars, but up to the present date, there has been no example of the 1804 half dollar discovered. The 1805 over 1804 will fetch at a coin dealer, when in fine condition, from five to six dollars; but is frequently met with in ordinary circulated condition.



UNITED STATES DIMES.

The most interesting and valuable of the United States dimes, or ten-cent pieces, is the "Experimental" dime of 1792, usually termed "Disme," and the counterpart of the better-known 1692 half-disme. This piece has for obverse the bust of Martha Washington, and was coined from Washington's old silver plate, and intended more as family souvenirs for presentation by Washington to friends. It is of French origin, as far as the designing and the making of the dies are concerned, the word "Disme" plainly showing this fact. The legend on obverse of 1792 dime, is "LIBERTY PARENT OF SCIENCE AND INDUS." The reverse side has a small flying eagle surrounded by a wreath. The 1792 dime was struck in two metals, silver and copper; the fictitious value from \$50 to \$100 as to condition and metal.

The regular issue of the dimes, did not occur until 1796. There was a bill passed by Congress previous to 1796, ordering an issue of "Double Dimes" or twenty-cent pieces, but nothing of this kind was ever struck, excepting, perhaps, a pattern piece, until 1857, when the "twenty-cent piece" became a regular United States coin, and continued until 1878, when this coin was dispensed with. The 1796, 1797 and 1798 dimes bore the same designs, with the exception of the number of stars, which varied from thirteen to fifteen. Obverse, bust of Liberty with flowing hair, the legend "Liberty" above, stars upon either side, and beneath the bust the date.

The design on reverse side of the 1800 dime, represented a large spread eagle, and the obverse exhibited a change in the bust from the flowing hair variety to the "Fillet Head." The latter design continued until 1809, when the capped head of Liberty, with the word "Liberty" on the cap, appeared, with a smaller eagle on the reverse. There was no coinage of dimes for the years 1799, 1806, 1808, 1810, 1812, 1813, and from 1815 to 1819 inclusive. The rarest issues from 1796 to 1820, are respectively in value as follows; 1804, 1800, 1797, 1801, 1803, 1802, 1796, 1822, 1811, 1809 and 1805.

In 1820, the dimes reappeared, and continued until 1825 inclusive, the rarest being the 1822. There was no coinage of dimes for 1826, but they were issued regularly after this date to the present time. The Philadelphia and the New Orleans mints, both coined dimes, the former from the year 1796, and the latter from 1837. In 1837, an important change was made in a portion of the issue; the stars and legend being omitted, and the starless dimes continued during 1837 and 1838, with and without the mint mark "O." A portion of the half-dimes of these years, were also starless. The dimes of the following years, up to and including 1860, bore the stars upon either side of a seated figure of the Goddess of Liberty; the reverse, presented the words, "ONE DIME," in two lines, inside of a laurel wreath, which was surrounded with the legend, "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA."

The rarest of the dimes from 1823 to 1860, are the following given in rotation as to the value, viz:—1846, 1860 with stars, 1838 without stars, 1824, 1828. There are numbers of varieties of the dimes, such as "over dates," large and small dates, etc., etc.

The dimes with stars of 1860, are few in number, and are worth a good premium. During the latter part of the year 1860, a portion of the dimes appeared with the legend, "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA," which supplanted the stars on the obverse, while the reverse, as in the illustration at the head of this paper, bore simply the words, "One Dime" within a wreath composed of wheat, corn and tobacco, and all subsequent dates are of similar designs.

FICTITIOUS VALUES OF UNITED STATES DIMES.

1792, experimental, proof	\$100, uncirculated,	\$75.
1804, dime, unc.	\$100, very fine	\$50, good, \$15.00
1800, " "	40.00, " "	20.00, " 10.00
1797, " "	35.00, " "	15.00, " 8.00
1801, " "	25.00, " "	10.00, " 6.00
1803, " "	20.00, " "	9.00, " 4.50
1802, " "	18.00, " "	8.00, " 4.00
1796, " "	13.00, " "	7.00, " 3.75
1822, " "	10.00, " "	6.50, " 3.50
1811, " "	8.00, " "	4.00, " 2.00
1809, " "	7.00, " "	3.75, " 1.75
1805, " "	6.00, " "	2.00, " 1.00
1846, " "	5.00, " "	1.75, " .75
1860, " (stars)	2.00, " "	1.00, " .50
1838, " (no stars)	1.50, " "	1.00, " .40
1824, " "	1.00, " "	.50, " .25
1828, " "	.75, " "	.40, " .20



MASSACHUSETTS CENTS, 1787-88.

A petition was presented to the Senate and House of Representatives of Massachusetts, by James Swan, for the right to coin copper money. Swan wished to coin twenty thousand pounds value in copper; the size, fineness, and designs of the coin to be left to the authorities to determine—the value to be determined by the relation of the coin to the British half penny, or to the French sol. No attention was paid to Swan's petition; but one Seth Reed, who had also put in a petition for the copper coinage, had received due attention, and Reed was called upon for further details of coinage. March 23, 1886, another scheme was introduced, and a committee appointed to consider the subject of coining silver as well as copper coin. On October 16, 1786, there was finally passed "An act for Establishing a Mint for the coinage of gold, silver and copper."

On June 27, 1787, the council advised that the devices for the intended coinage should consist of "The figure of an Indian with a bow and arrow, and a star on one side, with the word 'Commonwealth;' on the reverse, a spread eagle, with the words Massachusetts, 1787." A wooden building was erected on Washington Street, Boston, for a Mint house, and one Witherlee commenced coining the Massachusetts cents. The dies were made by Joseph Callender, of "Half Square State Street," Boston, particularly those for the 1787 cents and half cents, while Jacob Perkins of Newburyport made most of the dies for the 1788 cents and half-cents.

Some ten thousand dollars' worth of coppers were coined. There are quite a number of varieties, the rarest and most valuable specimen being the cent having in the claws of the eagle

the arrows and olive branch reversed, which in the common type were placed as follows: the olive branch being to the observer's right in the right claw of the eagle, and the arrows in the left claw. There is also a variety called the horned eagle, which was doubtless caused by a flaw in the reverse die. Another variety has the numerals *eight* in place of the letter *S*, evidently an error of the die sinker. The 1787 cent is by far the scarcer variety of date, and the 1788 half-cent the rarest of the half-cents; both dates appearing of the cents and half-cents. The Massachusetts half-cents bear the same designs as the cents, with the exception of value which appears on the breast of the eagle, on the large coin, "CENT," and on the small coin, "HALF-

CENT." The following fictitious values are about the prevailing prices for the Massachusetts copper coins, viz:

1787 cent, <i>branch and arrows revers.</i> , fine,	\$50.00
1787 cent, correct " " "	2.00
1787 cent, good, - - - - -	.50
1787 half cent, uncirculated, - - - - -	3.50
1787 half cent, very fine, - - - - -	2.00
1787 half cent, good, - - - - -	1.25
1788 cent, uncirculated, - - - - -	3.00
1788 cent, very fine, - - - - -	2.00
1788 cent, good, - - - - -	.75
1788 half cent, uncirculated, - - - - -	6.00
1788 half cent, very fine, - - - - -	3.50
1788 half cent, good, - - - - -	2.00



CONNECTICUT CENTS.

There are among American Colonial coins none of more interest (when we take into consideration the vast number of types and varieties known to collectors) than the rudely engraved Connecticut cents, or "coppers," as they are sometimes termed. The dies for these coppers were from the inexperienced hands of two New York merchants, Samuel Broome and Jeremiah Platt, who erected, in 1785, one mint at "Morris Cove," and another at "West Rock" on the shores of New Haven harbor, not far from the Lighthouse. The first coinage of Connecticut coppers, however, and a very limited one, was an unauthorized, or private issue of tokens, made by one John Higley, of Granby, Conn., from the copper ore dug on his own land at a place called "Copper Town." These peculiar pieces were made from 1837 to 1839, about three years, although the only date known to collectors, is the

1737 copper. There were several types of the so-called Granby, or Higley copper, one had for obverse a deer, very rudely engraved, standing in a circle slightly flattened at the lower part. Around the serrated border was the motto, "☞ * VALUE - ME - AS - YOU - PLEASE *". In exergue, the Roman numeral, III. Reverse, three hammer crowned, around which is the motto "☞ I - AM - GOOD - COPPER - . : . ." in exergue, 1737.

Another variety had same obverse as the preceding, while the reverse represented a broad axe, surrounded by the motto, "☞ I - CUT - MY - WAY - THROUGH" no date. A third variety had the addition of a crescent on the obverse field. Several of the Granby pieces show a beaded border, while some have a serrated, and others a plain border. The size and weight of these coppers varied, but nearly all in these

respects bear a close comparison to the ordinary Connecticut coppers.

In 1785, about the middle of October, Joseph Hopkins, James Hillhouse, John Goodrich, and Samuel Bishop petitioned the General Assembly, then sitting in New Haven, to grant them the power to establish a mint. The petition was granted and with the dies, made by the parties mentioned in the beginning of this paper, about ten thousand pounds in value, of the coppers, were coined. The dies were constantly breaking, necessitating renewal almost daily, hence a great number of types and varieties—one collector having in his cabinet upwards of a hundred different specimens. The dates of the Connecticut cents were 1737, 1785, 1786, 1787, 1788. The number of varieties of these pieces

is so large that we can give but a general idea of fictitious value, viz:—

Granby, or Higley Copper, 1737,	\$50.00 to \$100.00
“ “ “ “ (no date),	\$20.00 to \$50.00
Connecticut cents, dated 1785,	35c to \$2.00
“ “ “ “ 1786,	20c to \$1.50
“ “ “ “ 1787,	10c to \$1.00
“ “ “ “ 1788,	20c to \$1.50

By the Constitution of 1787, the United States government issued the Franklin or “Fugio cent,” which was the first United States cent, and insisted on the suspension of the coinages and mints of the different States, assuming the exclusive right of coining money for the United States. The immense stock of Connecticut and other State coppers were sold, and the 1787 Fugio, or United States cents, were substituted.



VERMONT CENTS.

Crosby, who is conceded to be the best authority on American Colonial and State coinages, gives twenty-two types and varieties of the Vermont coppers, in his excellent work, “Early Coins of America,” and we simply present the most common type, 1787, in the above illustration. The earliest Vermont copper coins were dated 1785, and presented on the obverse side the sun sinking behind the hills, or mountains partially wooded, beneath which a plow, and date 1785; around the border the inscription, “VERMONTIS-RES-PUBLICA.” The reverse side presents a series of the sun’s rays, radiating from the centre, within which is a human eye. Thirteen stars are placed between the outer ends of the thirteen large rays, while thirteen smaller rays alternate with the former, making twenty-six rays in a circle. Around the

border is the legend, “QUARTA-DECIMA-STELLA.” There are several varieties of this type of the Vermont coppers.

One variety reads on obverse, “VERMONTIS-RES-PUBLICA”; another reads, “VERMONTENSIVM-RES-PUBLICA.” There is also a rare variety of this class of pieces where the sun is at the extreme left, instead of the usual position at the right of the observer. There are two dates of the above described pieces, viz., 1785-1786. We next come to the “Baby Head” copper of 1786. Obverse a bust resembling the head of a child, legend “AUCTORI-VERMONT”, reverse, seated figure of the Goddess of Liberty, holding in her extended hand an olive branch; around the border the motto, “INDE-ET-LIB.” In exergue, 1786.

There are several varieties of this type of cop-

per wherein the obversers present the bust of George III. with a great number of varieties upon the reverse, both in the arrangement of legends, dates and the Goddess of Liberty.

The Vermont cents of 1787 and 1788 differ but little from the 1886 varieties; and all are rudely executed, the 1787 pieces being frequently without date on reverses, while obverses present a very sharp and fine impression. The dies used in the making some of the Vermont coppers, was the work of Buel and Harmon, although there were several other die sinkers reported engaged in the work. A workman known to have been in the Vermont "Mint House," was one William Cooley, who resided in Rupert, Vermont. Reuben Harmon struck the 1785 and 1786 Vermont cents, and subsequently united in a co-partnership with William Coley, Jas. F. Atlee, D. Brooks, James Greer, James Giles, Thomas

Machin, Daniel Voorhees and Elias Jackson, for the purpose of running the Vermont Mint, and coined some 1787 and 1788 pieces, The Immune Columbia pieces of 1785, in silver and copper, are sometimes attributed to Vermont origin, and are the most valuable of the Vermont pieces.

1785	Vermont cts	are valued from	50c to	\$5.00
1786	"	"	"	40c to 3.50
1787	"	"	"	25c to 2.50
1788	"	"	"	35c to 3.00

Any strictly fine, or new-looking Vermont copper, is worth probably double the above highest quotations, as we have quoted only from good to very fine. There are many "Muled" Vermont coppers; having the obverse die of one type muled with reverse die of a different type, and sometimes we find Vermont pieces that show the use of British coins in striking, probably, on account of the scarcity of copper.



NEW YORK CENTS.

There are various "Experimental Pieces," and "Pattern Pieces," bearing an earlier date than the above illustration, but there is no positive evidence that the State of New York authorized a copper coinage earlier than 1787, and the fact of authorizing a coinage at the latter period is in doubt, as far as legal authority is concerned; notwithstanding this, there have been coined various copper pieces, which passed current in the State, and many examples of the same are in the cabinets of collectors, and hands of the coin dealer. The most common of the New York coppers is the "Nova Eborac," or New York piece of 1787. Obverse, bust of Liberty, around which are the words "NOVA EBORAC;" reverse, seated figure of the Goddess of

Liberty, legend, "VIRT. ET LIB." (Virtue and Liberty) date 1787. There are half a dozen varieties of this copper, and some of them are quite rare. In most examples found at this day the date seems to have been weakly struck, and rarely shows; the reverse side being frequently quite smooth, while the obverse is sharp and distinct. The establishing of a mint was discussed by the Colonial Government, as far back as 1661, when the city of New York was known as New Amsterdam. During the year 1672 the "Court of Assizes" passed an order for regulating the value of silver coins, and provided that the Pine Tree shilling of 1652, called at that time, the "Boston" shilling should pass current for one shilling (16 2-3 cts.), and that eight full

weight Spanish, or Mexican pieces, should pass current for six shillings. Among the pieces issued by private parties were the Immune and Immunis silver and copper coins of 1785 and 1787; the former about the size of the old United States quarter dollar, and the latter, the size of the early United States copper cents. In 1786, there appeared a private copper issue with military bust on obverse of the governor, George Clinton, around which was the legend, "NON VI VIR- TUTE VICI;" reverse, Goddess of Liberty seated, with the words around the border, "NEO EBORAGENSIS," date beneath, 1786. The "Nova-Constellatio" coppers of 1783, 1785, and 1786, were all coined for circulation in New York and a few other States, but were ordered, it is supposed, by Governor Morris of New York, from the great *English* die sinker, Wyon.

Many thousands of these pieces were circulated in the original thirteen States, and there are many types and varieties, some very rare, and others quite common. Among other rare New York coppers, are the so-called, "LIBER NATUS LIBERATUM," the CONFEDERATIO, or "INIMICA TYRANNIS" Pieces. We also find a number of *muled* copper pieces, such as an obverse of a New York piece, *muled* with the reverse of a New Jersey copper; thus showing that there were jackasses among our forefathers

who tampered with the coinage, as did the fathers of a later period. There are gold, silver and copper pieces, that have had a New York origin; one of the most valuable pieces being the gold "Brasher's Doubloon," a beautiful and artistic coin, the work of Ephraim Brasher, whose initials "E B" are stamped on the wing of the eagle upon the obverse side. The most interesting and perhaps earliest piece struck for New York, is a rude copper, bearing on obverse an eagle resting on a branch of a tree, around this the legend, "NEW YORKE IN AMERICA." Reverse, a group of trees, and a partly nude Indian with a bow and arrow in the left hand. This piece is not fully authenticated; but as it has been found under circumstances that would show originality, it is accepted as a New York token, struck in copper and brass. The fictitious value of the various New York pieces would puzzle a coin dealer, but might be given pretty nearly as follows:

New York silver pieces 1785 and '86, \$20 to \$75.

" " copper " 1783 " '85, 25c, " \$2.

" " " " 1786 " '87, of the rarest class, range from \$10 to \$150.

New York, or Nova Eboracs of 1787, 25c. to \$5.

" " " Nova Constellatio of 1783 and '85, 25c. to \$3.



NEW JERSEY CENTS.

Doctor Edward Maris, the well-known numismatic authority on the types and varieties of the New Jersey copper coins, gives one hundred different types and varieties of these pieces in his published photographic plate, which appeared a few years since in Philadelphia; but subsequent research has added several new varieties to the list, and it would be safe to assert that there are at least one hundred and twenty-five different New Jersey coppers.

The earliest known New Jersey pieces, or coppers, that circulated by law in the Colony, were called "St. Patrick's Half-Pence." In May, 1682, the authorities of the Province of New Jersey passed an act which provided that, for the more convenient payment of small sums, the Mark Newby, or "St. Patrick's Half-Pence shall, from and after the eighteenth of May, pass for half-pence, current pay of this Province." These copper pieces were very peculiar, having on obverse side a crowned King kneeling, and playing upon a harpsichord; above the King's head a small crown, with a small piece of composition, resembling brass, inserted in the centre of the crown; legend, "Floreat Rex." Reverse, a representation of St. Patrick, in midst of a number of people; on the left side, a shield with emblems resembling altars; legend, "Ecce Grex." There are two sizes, half-penny and farthing, and both are rare; the largest being the rarest. Fictitious value, from one to five dollars. There are several varieties of St. Patrick or New Jersey provincial coppers. The regular Colonial coinage of New Jersey, under the United States government and Colonial law, commenced in 1786. The coppers of this period present on the obverse, in the centre, a horse's head look-

ing right, beneath which is a plow, and in exergue the date, 1786. Legend around the border, "Nova Caesarea," (New Caesar). Reverse, a shield with thirteen bars; legend "E PLURIBUS UNUM." These coppers are nearly the weight and about the size of the United States copper cents of 1797 to 1814. There are many varieties of the 1786 pieces, the most valuable being with date under the plow-beam. The next issue was 1787, and there were larger quantities issued than the preceding year; hence are more common at the present day, and of less fictitious value than their predecessors.* One of the varieties of 1787 has the U in PLURIBUS omitted, and reads PLURIBS.

The designs remained substantially the same until 1788, when specimens were coined with the horse's head reversed (looking to the observer's left). The other varieties of the 1788 pieces are somewhat similar to the ordinary types of the 1786 and '88 pieces. There is one peculiar 1788 copper termed the "Fox" variety, having on the left border of the reverse an animal resembling a dog, horse, or fox in the act of running. The values of the different dates can only be approximated, as the different types, varieties, and conditions would require many pages of values to represent their actual fictitious worth individually. The probable value is about as follows:

1786	N. J. ct. (date under plow beam)	\$100 to \$300
1786	" " (ordinary varieties)	25 cts. to 5
1787	" " (Do. Do)	15 cts. to 3
1788	" " (Fox Type)	50 cts. to 5
1788	" " (Pluribs variety)	\$1.00 to 10
1788	" " (Ordinary ")	25 cts. to 5



MARYLAND COINS.

Although articles of merchandise, such as wheat, rye, tobacco, &c., passed as currency in Maryland during the days of its early settlement, it was not until about 1661 that a bill was passed in the Province of Maryland to establish a mint, under the authority of the Lords Proprietors, and not until about 1670 that silver coins appeared in circulation in the Province. Lord Baltimore was engaged extensively in forcing his coinage upon the people, and the authorities were bitterly opposed to such coins. In 1659 Lord Baltimore was cited to appear before a council for sending great quantities of silver coin into the Province. Notwithstanding the quantities of the Lord Baltimore pieces put into circulation, they have since become very rare, and it is not unlikely that this personal coinage was suppressed, as was the Baltimore "Standish Barry" three-pence of a later date.

There are varieties of the Maryland, or Lord Baltimore pieces; but the difference consists chiefly in punctuation marks, especially in examples of the shilling.

THE LORD BALTIMORE SHILLING.

Obverse, a profile bust of Lord Baltimore, surrounded by the legend, CÆCILIVS : DNS : TERRÆ — MARIÆ : & CT. Reverse, a shield with diagonal, crossing perpendicular bars, crowned. The value, X to left of shield and II to the right, signifies XII pence, or shilling. Legend, CRESCITE : ET : MVLTIPlicAMINI (increase and multiply). While in London the past summer, the writer examined several Lord Baltimore pieces, but the varieties — shilling and sixpence — were similar to the illustration above.

THE LORD BALTIMORE SIXPENCE AND Groat

differ only in size from the shilling, although much rarer than the latter. The Lord Baltimore, or Maryland copper penny, presents the same

obverse as the silver pieces; but upon the reverse side there is a crown, or duke's coronet, upon the top of which are two ducal pennants, around which is the legend DENARIVM : TERRÆ-MARIÆ.

In visiting Dr. Charles Clay, of Manchester, England, some years ago, with a view of purchasing his grand cabinet of American coins and medals, the writer was shown by Dr. Clay a copper piece, apparently a "trial piece," from the dies of the Lord Baltimore shilling, the punctuation of which differed from the usual types; but there has not been seen, as far as known, any similar piece; hence, there may not have been examples of Dr. Clay's piece coined.

The Lord Baltimore penny is an exceedingly rare coin, if not unique, as but one example is known; and this piece was imported from England by the late Joseph J. Mickley, of Philadelphia, at a cost of \$365, including expenses, and was sold by auction at Geo. A. Leavitt & Co.'s sales-rooms, Astor Place, New York, in 1867, for \$370. The Standish Barry Three Pence was issued in Baltimore, 1790, and known as the "Baltimore Three Pence." This was a private (or shop) token, in silver, and has an obverse representing, as supposed, the bust of Standish Barry, a Baltimore jeweller, around which is the legend, "BALTIMORE TOWN, JULY 4, '90"; hence it was often termed the "4th of July Three Pence," or "Independence Token." The reverse has the value, "THREE PENCE," in two lines, in the centre of a plain field, around which, on the border, is the legend, curiously arranged in beaded crosses, the letters forming the name, "Standish Barry," edge-milled.

The value of the Maryland coins may be stated at about the following prices:

Maryland Shilling	\$10.00	to	\$25.00
" Sixpence	12.00	"	35.00
" Threepence	6.00	"	15.00
" Penny			500.00
Baltimore Town Piece (Token)	15.00	"	30.00



VIRGINIA COINAGE.

Although it is claimed that the earliest American or colonial State coin was the Sommer Islands shilling, and circulated in Virginia about 1612, thus ante-dating the Massachusetts shilling fifty years, yet the Sommer Islands were in Bermuda, where, in 1609, Sir George Sommers was wrecked, and the islands subsequently became possessions of Great Britain. A London, afterwards a "Virginia Co.," colonized the Sommer Islands, under the management of Sir George Calvert; subsequently, this gentleman became the founder of Maryland, and an adherent of the Roman Catholic Church, although previously belonging to the Church of England, and finally was forgiven his apostasy, and made Lord Baltimore by King James.

A private token, called the Gloucester Piece, was probably the first token issued in Virginia; but the first regular coinage prepared for Virginia, was the "Virginia Half Penny," 1773. Obverse, bust of Geo. III., legend, "GEORGIUS REX III.," reverse, a shield crowned, quartered by the arms of England; legend, "VIRGINIA;" date 1773.

There was also issued a silver shilling, bearing the same devices as the copper piece; but as there have been but a few examples known of this valuable coin, it was probably suppressed. There are several varieties of the Virginia half penny, viz: Large and small planchets, and slight variations in the punctuation marks.

These pieces were of English origin, and coined in England for the colony of Virginia. The fictitious value of the Virginia coins and tokens are at the present time, about as follows: The Gloucester token (brass) is valued at one hundred dollars, and the only one the writer ever examined was the property of the late Joseph J. Mickley, and valued by him at about seventy-five dollars. The silver shilling piece ranges from fifty dollars to one hundred and fifty.

There are not more than half a dozen Virginia shillings known; hence their great value.

The copper *Virginia half-pennies* vary in value according to variety and condition, viz:—

Uncirculated half-penny, 1773,	\$2.00
Very fine " " "	\$1.00
Very good " " "	.50
Fair " " "	.25

The above quotations are for the ordinary type, varieties fetching a slightly advanced price.

Col. Cohen, of Baltimore, Maryland, a famous collector of the past (now deceased), was the lucky possessor of several hundred bright uncirculated Virginia half-pennies of 1773, which have been scattered throughout the country, and are frequently seen in private coin cabinets and in the coin dealers' stores, and, by way of parenthesis, we would say that this gentleman possessed a unique gold Washington cent of 1791; also a genuine United States dollar of 1804.



NOVA CONSTELLATIO COINS.

There has long been a mystery surrounding the NOVA CONSTELLATIO pieces of 1783 and '85; some authorities attribute them to American origin and others to foreign. Be that as it may, there are varieties enough of these quaint and interesting copper and silver pieces handed down from generation to generation, to enlist the numismatist's closest attention. Whether as State, local, or government coins we view them, there is plenty of evidence in the multiplicity of examples, that these coins passed current in the latter years of the last century, and came to collectors of the present time, as additions to their American Colonial and State issues.

The excessively rare types of these curious coins, such as the silver pieces of 1785, are of great fictitious value, and of limited issue. The Confederatio and a number of the Vermont pieces have reverses somewhat similar to those of the Constellatio.

In the illustrations we present one type showing the reverse of the Nova Constellatio piece, and an obverse of the Confederatio. There are also New York "Excelsior" pieces of copper that may have originated from the same die sinkers in England as did the Nova Constellatio pieces. The obverse of the latter coinage represents a wreath of laurel leaves, in the centre of which are the Roman caps U. S., around the whole the legend, LIBERTAS*ET*JUSTITIA. Reverse, as in cut above. There is a type of these coins having script U. S. in place of the Roman caps U. S.,—both are quite common. The IMMUNIS COLUMBIA in silver and copper, 1786, belong to the same family as the NOVA CONSTELLATIO; also the INIMICA TY-

RANNIS pieces of 1785, having the CONFEDERATIO reverse. The only apparent difference in the common Nova Constellatio, is in the orthography of the legends; the spelling being different in varieties of the 1783 issue. These various pieces were, no doubt, struck by Wyon, in England, for speculative purposes in America, there being no authority yet discovered that would indicate an American State or government issue in connection with their history, as far as known. Many American pieces can be traced to the same speculative feeling controlling their issue; notably the 1783 Washington coppers. Soon after the close of the Revolutionary War, the French and English die sinkers struck off various coins and medals, and unloaded the same in the American market, where they were eagerly snapped up by our patriotic ancestors, as mementos of the times that tried the souls of men who would be free, and themselves struck the blow for that liberty which we now enjoy. The value of the rare copper Confederatos, and the equally rare silver pieces, could scarcely be given, so rarely are they offered at public or private sale; however, we might say that twenty-five dollars would be the minimum price for either of them, and one hundred and seventy-five to two hundred dollars the maximum price.

The following prices show about the relative value of the common varieties of the Nova Constellatio:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1783, Libertas Justitia, obverse | 25c. to \$1.00. |
| " Libertas et Justitia " | 35c. " 1.25. |
| 1785 Nova Constellatio (one L) | 25c. " .75. |
| " " Constellatio (two L's) | 40c. " 1.50. |



UNITED STATES NICKEL AND BRONZE CENTS.

The U. S. nickel cents, which were coined to supplant the heavy and inconvenient large copper coins of equal denomination, made their first appearance early in 1856, and commanded unusual attention, from the fact that the old copper cents were still in circulation, and had not been legally called in; hence, the people were led to suppose that the new nickels were simply "experimentals," while, in fact, they were "pattern pieces" when first issued. The difference between "experimental pieces" and "pattern pieces" is quite marked, the former being "experiments" with various metals, to test the dies, before striking "patterns;" the latter being struck with various designs and then submitted to the "Coinage Committee" of Congress and the Treasury Department, for selection and approval. The selected coin becomes a regular issue, and the rejected pieces "patterns," while those struck in other than the accepted metal become "experimental pieces." The 1856 and 1857 nickel cents were similar in design, viz.: obverse, an "Indian Head," with legend around the border, "United States of America" and date. Reverse, a tobacco wreath, within which the denomination was placed, "One Cent."

In 1858 there were designed and struck twelve nickel "patterns," all bearing the date 1858, with a view of selecting different designs for the nickel cents. This was done in consequence of the severe comments and criticisms of the public press and people generally on the flying eagle on the obverse of the 1857 and 1858 cents, such terms being applied to the *national bird* as "Buz-zard Eagle," "Crow Eagle," etc., etc. There were struck off four 1858 pattern cents, with a large eagle (similar to the 1856 and 1857 nickel

cents) on the obverse, each reverse being different; four of the small or "Crooked-necked Eagle," four with the Indian Head obverses; making a set of twelve pattern pieces. Four different designs were used for reverses with each of the set of obverses, viz.: "Oak Wreath," "Oak Wreath and Shield," "Tobacco Wreath," and "Laurel Wreath."

The 1858 piece selected was with Indian Head obverse and laurel wreath reverse, and in 1859 the first regular coinage of these new designs occurred. In 1860 another design was adopted for the reverse, viz.: "Oak Wreath and Shield," and this design has been continued through the series of the nickel cent coinage, terminating, as far as *metal* was concerned, with the year 1864, when the bronze coinage of two and one cent coinage commenced. The bronze cents bore the same designs as the nickel pieces that preceded them to 1858; while the two-cent bronze pieces appeared with new designs, but were cut short, there being but ten dates struck, viz.: 1864 to 1873, inclusive.

The bronze cents continued from 1864 to 1886 inclusive, and appear likely to remain for years to come. The fictitious value of the nickel and bronze coins is about as follows:

	New, \$1 to \$5.	Patterns, \$1 to \$10.
1856	" 5c. " 2.	" None.
1857	" 5c. " 2.	" 50c. to \$3.
1858	" 5c. " 1.50.	" 75c. " \$2
1859	" 5c. " 50c.	" None.
1860	" 3c. " 40c.	" "
1861, '2, '4	" 3c. " 30c.	" 50c. to \$1.50.
1863	" 2c. " 25c.	" None.
1864 to 1876	" 10c. " 50c.	" "
1877	" 2c. " 10c.	" "
1878 to 1885		

AFTER TWENTY-FIVE YEARS.



FLUCTUATIONS OF RARE UNITED STATES SILVER COINS.

It is a matter of considerable interest, pecuniary and otherwise, to the coin collector and general reader, to learn something of the past value of rare American coins as compared with the present value of the same. The writer's experience as a coin dealer and collector, extending through a period of thirty years, furnishes a fair opportunity to trace the rise in the fictitious value of American coins.

The above group of rare United States silver coins embraces those pieces that are found occasionally at the coin dealers' stores, and in auction sales of large private cabinets. The most noted increase in the fictitious value of American coins during the quarter of a century, embracing the years 1860 to 1885 inclusive, is connected with the United States silver dollar of the year 1804, and the half-dime of the year 1802, the former increasing from three hundred dollars in 1860 to one thousand dollars in 1885, while the latter increased from one hundred to four hundred dollars in the same time. In the cases of increase in fictitious value, we instance only very fine coins; but others of the same dates, not so fine, have increased in value in a corresponding ratio. The 1794 United States silver dollar, which occupies the centre of the group in our illustration, was authorized by an act of Congress, April 2, 1792, and was struck at the old mint, opposite Filbert Street, in Seventh Street, Philadelphia, and is still standing. This dollar, which is considered very rare,

commanded a premium of about \$25 in 1860, and has steadily advanced in fictitious value from year to year, and commanded, in every condition, in 1885, the sum of three hundred dollars. It is said that but few of the 1794 dollars were struck, and the earliest from the dies equalled proof pieces in their glistening splendor. The British Museum contains the best known specimen of the 1794 dollar, and probably received it as a gift from our Government the year it was coined. The next in rotation of date, in our fac simile representation, are half-dollars of extreme rarity; viz.: 1796 and 1797. These much-sought-after pieces are very difficult to obtain in fine condition, but fair specimens were valued by numismatists in 1860, at \$15 to \$20 each.

[The first half-dollars appeared in 1794, although the coinage was authorized April, 1792. There were but a few thousands of the 1794 half-dollars coined, which fact was fully compensated for by an unusually large coinage of 1795 half-dollars.] Taking for a basis the fictitious value of the 1796 and 1797 half-dollars at \$15 and \$20 in 1860 for fair specimens, and \$35 for very fine pieces, the progression upward has been about as follows:

1865	Fictitious value of 1796 and 1797 half-dollars,	\$45 each.
1870	" " " " " " " " " "	55 "
1875	" " " " " " " " " "	70 "
1880	" " " " " " " " " "	85 "
1885	" " " " " " " " " "	100 "

Thus it will be seen that a pair of these rare half-dollars in very fine condition will command, at the present time, fully \$200, while good specimens will command about one-half of this price per pair.

United States dimes of 1800 and 1804 come next in view. The dimes, or ten-cent silver pieces, were authorized by the same act of Congress that legalized the issues of the dollars of 1794 and the half-dollars of 1796 and 1797. The first experiment, however, with the decimal coinage, occurred in 1792, by a private issue of the Martha Washington "Dismes," or dimes, which were limited to a few pieces, distributed among Washington's near relatives. The first issue of the regular coinage of dimes was in the year 1796, when there was a moderate quantity circulated; in fact, the issue of dimes of 1796, 1797, 1798, 1800, 1801, 1802, 1803 and 1804 was very limited in extent and are all rare; while issues of 1805, 1807, 1809 and 1811 were confined to a few thousands in number; hence, we have no common dimes at the present time (excepting, perhaps, 1814) until 1850, all previous issues having long since passed into the list of scarcities. The rarest of the dimes is the 1804, followed by the 1800. In the year 1860 these pieces, in fine condition, were worth respectively as follows:

1860, 1804 dime, very fine, \$10.	1800 dime, \$5.
1870, " " " " 15.	" " " " 10.
1880, " " " " 20.	" " " " 15.
1885, " " " " 25.	" " " " 25.

We now come to the 1823 and 1827 quarter-dollars. The quarter-dollars were also authorized by the act of 1792, but did not reach public circulation until 1796, and then only in limited numbers. From 1797 to 1803, inclusive, there was a rest, and no coinage of these pieces occurred. In 1804 a limited number of quarters appeared; also in 1815; but in 1823 and 1827 the issue was confined in the first instance to a few hundred pieces, and in the latter case, there were scarcely a hundred, and in every case these were "proof" pieces. The appreciation in value of these rare quarter-dollars is marked with the same numismatic spirit, in a pecuniary sense, as the preceding coins, viz.:

1860, Quarter-dollar of 1823, very fine, \$10.	Proof 1827 \$25.
1870, " " " " 30.	" " " " 40.
1880, " " " " 75.	" " " " 60.
1885, " " " " 100.	" " " " 125.

The 1836, 1838, and 1839 United States silver dollars have been long considered "Pattern Pieces," not belonging to the regular coinage; but, be this as it may, all collectors of silver coinage of the United States, place these rare and valuable pieces in their regular series of dollars; hence we may as well admit these "Patterns" into the ordinary series of dollars.

The United States silver-dollar series are badly broken, chronologically (also the quarter-dollars, dimes, and half-dimes); there being no dollars issued between 1804 and 1840, inclusive (excepting the "Pattern" dollars of 1836, 1838, and 1839). As the "Pattern" dollars bear nearly the same devices and legends, we will embrace the three pieces in the valuation from 1860, when the dates stood in fictitious value as follows:

1860, dollar of 1836, <i>proof</i> , \$3.50.
1870, " " " " 6.00.
1880, " " " " 10.00.
1885, " " " " 15.00.

THE 1838 AND 1839 UNITED STATES SILVER DOLLARS.

These "Pattern Pieces" were very limited in number, and, like the 1836 dollar, only struck in "Proof" condition. Appreciated value, viz.:

1860, 1838 proof dollar, \$10; 1839 proof dollar, \$5.
1870, " " " " 25; " " " " 18.
1880, " " " " 35; " " " " 25.
1885, " " " " 60; " " " " 35.

One of the most remarkable instances of the increase in fictitious value, in the United States, of a single coin, applies to the little nickel cent, of the year 1856. When the old copper cents were about to be dispensed with as a legal tender, experiments were made to introduce a smaller and more convenient one-cent coin; hence, in 1855, experiments were made in nickel, and after repeated trials with large and small eagles (so called "Buzzards," and "Crooked Necks,") the nickel cent, with flying eagle of date 1856, was produced and sent on its course in small sums throughout the United States. At that time any person could walk into the mint and get a hundred of the new coins. Now comes the sequel, showing fluctuations.

AFTER TWENTY-FIVE YEARS.

1856 nickel cent of the United States, proof,	\$.01
" " " " " " " proof or unc'd,	.01
1860, " " " " " " " " " "	.50
1870, " " " " " " " " " "	2.00
1880, " " " " " " " " " "	3.00
1885, " " " " " " " " " "	4.00

OBSOLETE UNITED STATES SILVER AND BRONZE COINAGES.

AMONG the silver coins that have been discontinued by the United States Government there are the "twenty-cent" and "three-cent" pieces. The twenty-cent piece was issued in 1874 as a pattern (worth from \$20 to \$35 each), followed by the regular issue in 1875, continuing 1876, 1877, and 1878, when the coinage ceased. The 1877 and 1878 issues were few in number, and always found in proof condition, valued respectively at \$3.50 and \$2.50. Obverse, head of Liberty surrounded by thirteen stars, date below; reverse, spread eagle, arrows, olive branch, etc. On each side a star, plain edge; a few pieces were struck with reeded edges, and are worth \$1 each. The silver three-cent pieces were coined for the years 1851 to 1873 inclusive, and bore on obverse a large star in centre bearing an American shield, legend around the border, "United States of America," date below; reverse, an ornamental C, within which is the denomination III, and three arrows below, thirteen stars around the border. There were but few pieces coined from 1863 to 1873 inclu-

sive, hence very rare; and these pieces, generally "proofs," command from 75 cents to \$3 each. The other dates are worth from 5 cents to 50 cents each, according to condition. There was a pattern three-cent piece struck, dated 1850, worth \$3.

The coinage of "two-cent" pieces was confined to a series of ten different dates, commencing in 1864 and continuing up to, and including, 1873. The obverse side bears the American shield enclosed in a reversed wreath (evidently an error in arrangement, to which numismatists have heretofore been silent), a waved label at the top contains the legend, "In God we Trust," date below. On reverse side is a large numeral 2, under which, in a curved line, the word CENTS, around this a wreath of wheat, and around the whole, the legend, "United States of America." This coin is similar in metal to the bronze cents of the same dates, edge plain. The value of these coins ranges as follows: 1873, \$1.50; 1872, from 15 cents to 75 cents each; the other dates only valuable when in *uncirculated* or *proof* condition.

RARE AMERICAN COINS:



THEIR DESCRIPTION,

AND

Past and Present Fictitious Values.



A NUMISMATIST'S GUIDE TO THE YEARS' EXPERIENCE.

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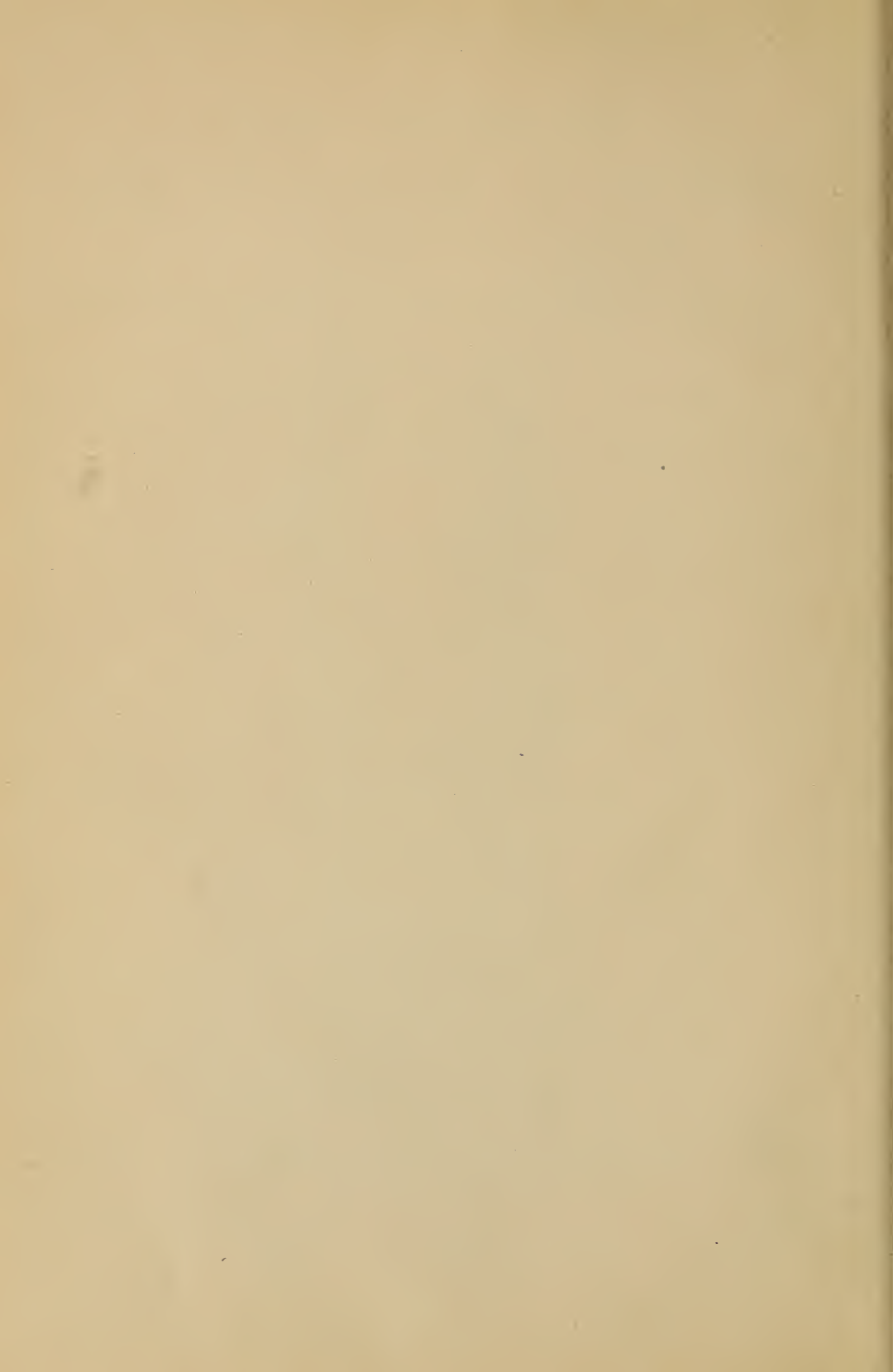
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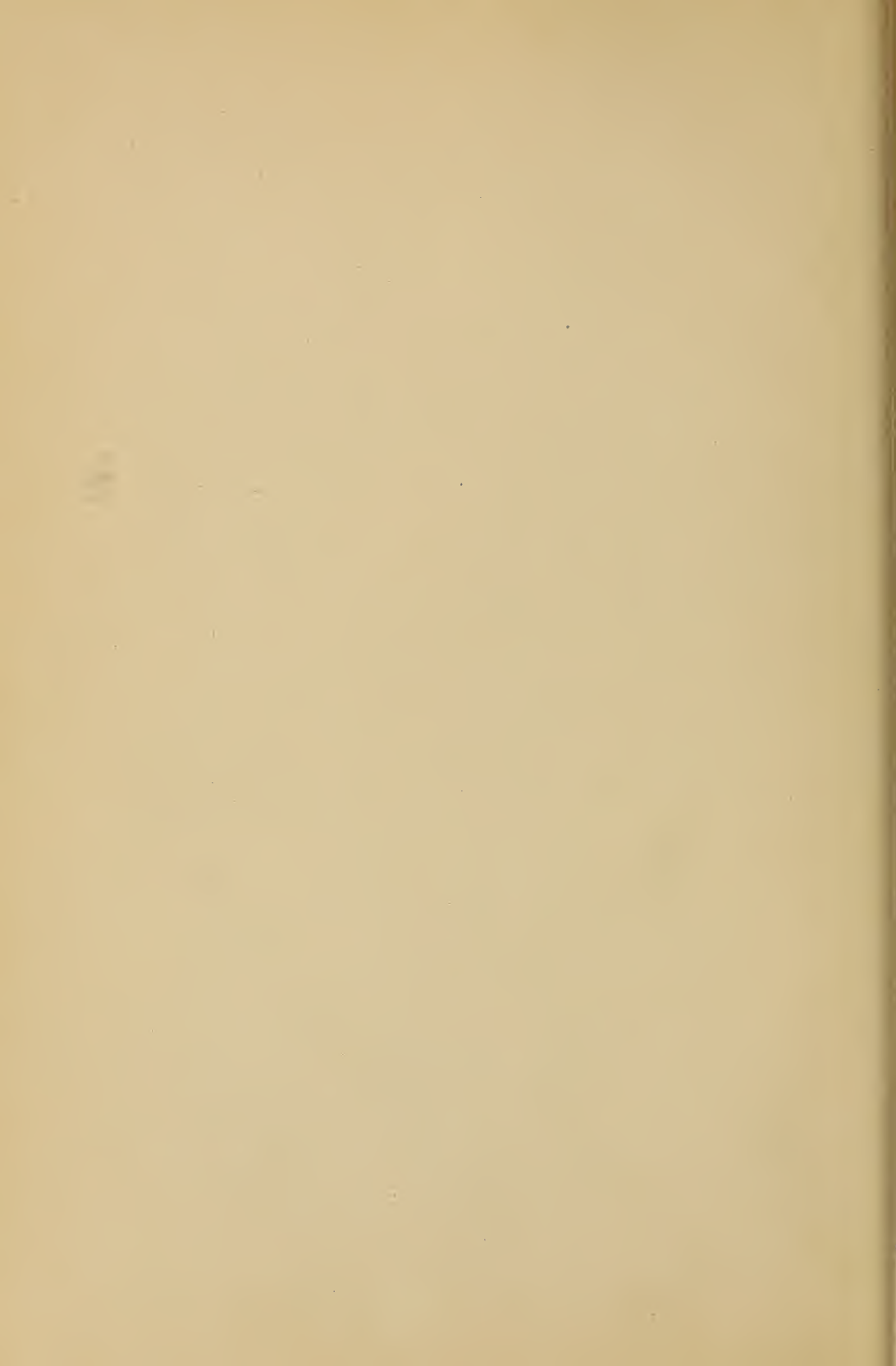
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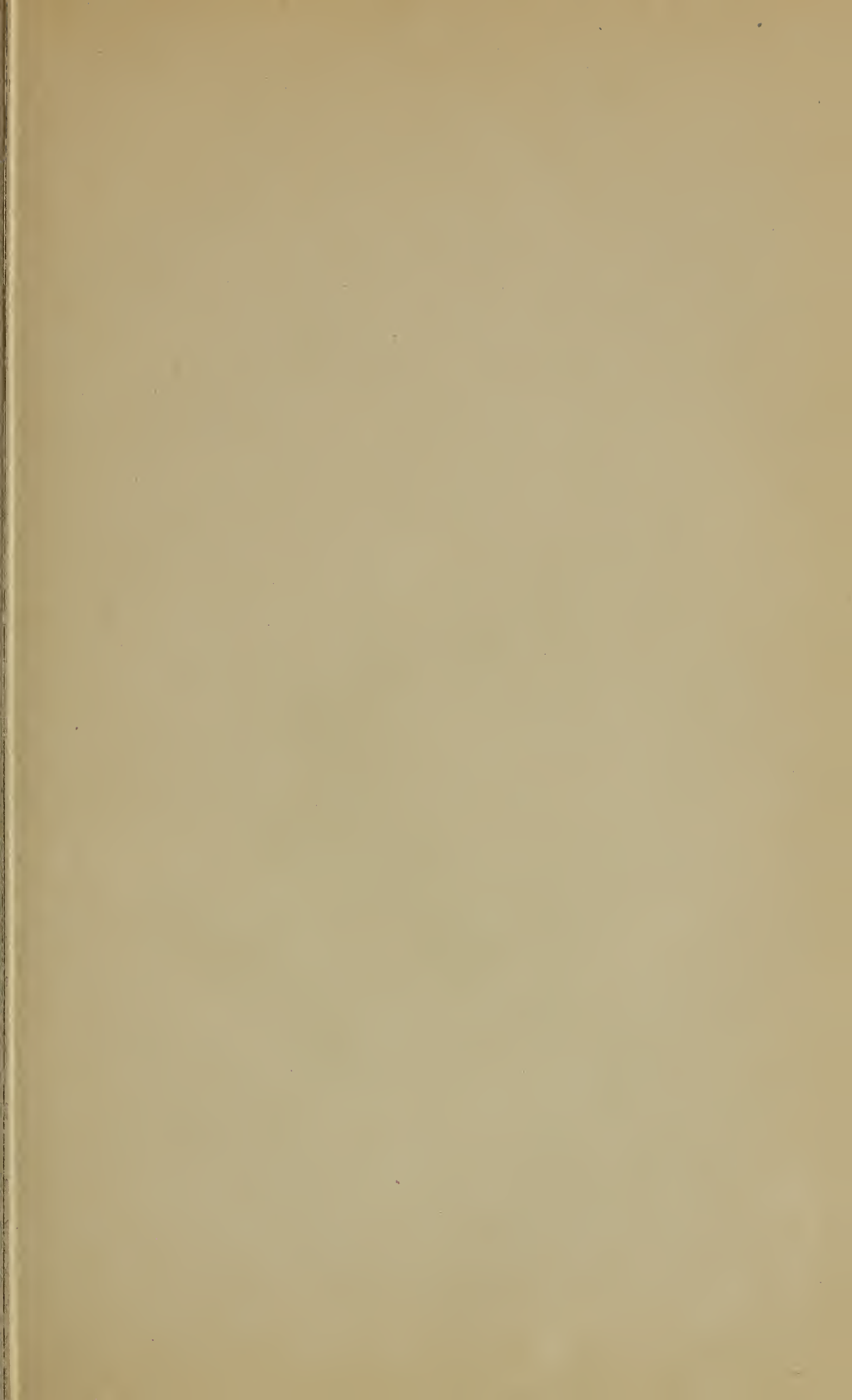
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